



News Advisory

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

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First Meeting of the Governor's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee *Preparing Utahns for Possible Emergencies*

WHAT: In 2006, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman established the Governor's Task Force for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness. The group met for nearly a year and produced a number of recommendations to help Utahns prepare and provide for effective and credible decision-making during a crisis. One of those suggestions involved the creation of an advisory committee charged with making tough decisions under difficult circumstances. The Governor's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee will now guide ongoing preparedness efforts and decision-making during a pandemic and other public health emergencies.

WHY: Many scenarios could have a devastating impact on the capacity of our current health care system. In a crisis situation, it's likely that Utahns who are confined at home or in alternate facilities may be unable to receive expected care. The Governor's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee will help determine how Utah's resources can be used to provide the best care to the most people.

WHO: Dr. David Sundwall, Utah Department of Health, Executive Director
Commissioner Scott Duncan, Utah Department of Public Safety
Lt. Governor Gary Herbert

WHEN: Thursday, May 22, 2008
10 a.m.

WHERE: State Capitol Board Room
Salt Lake City, Utah

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